

NATIVE NEWS

Harvest Moon Ball supports Native artists and community vitality

The Native American Community Development Corporation (NACDC) and the Blackfeet Reservation Development Fund (BRDF) are hosting the 17th annual Harvest Moon Ball, 5 p.m. Sept. 21 at the East Glacier Lodge in Glacier National Park.

The Harvest Moon Ball, started by Elouise Cobell in 1996, continues to be a reflection of her support to Native American artists locally and throughout Indian Country. This year's event will feature exhibition dancers, dinner, dancing, and the evening's highlight, a live auction of artwork created by award-winning Native American artists.

Tickets are \$75 and the attire is formal "red and yellow." This year's theme is "Morningstar: Beginning of a New Day – Start of a New Journey."

Vendor booths are available from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sept. 20-21 at the East Glacier Lodge. The cost is \$50, and space is limited; call 406-338-2992 to reserve a booth.

This year's featured artist is Evan Thompson, who combines traditional native concepts with modern design in the pieces he creates. Although he is color blind, Thompson was able to find a medium in which he could overcome this obstacle and renders vibrant and colorful compositions working primarily with Prismacolor, AV and Tombo inks. He studied art under Athena Mosxona from a young age and continues to express himself through his art, poetry, and music.

Thompson grew up in Heart Butte, on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, received his bachelor's degree in psychology from Montana State University Bozeman and earned his Juris Doctorate from The University of Montana School of Law. He is a civil defense attorney with the law firm Browning, Kaleczyc, Berry & Hoven, P.C., Helena.

In 1996, the Ford Foundation chose the Montana Community Foundation (MTCF) as one of four community foundations in the country to develop an innovative initiative to improve economic vitality for rural communities. MTCF chose the Blackfeet Community Foundation (BCF) as one of three Montana communities to be a Beacon Community to light the way to community revitalization.

The Harvest Moon Ball helps build the BCF Endowment, administered by MTCF;

interest income from the endowment supports community vitality projects.

Tickets are \$75 and available by calling 406-338-2992 or 406-564-5612, or by email at harvestmoonball2013@gmail.com. For more information visit the website at www.harvestmoonballblkft.com.

Powwow season continues in September

The powwow season continues into

September. Traditional gatherings include;

- **Poplar Indian Days**, Aug. 29-Sept. 1 in Poplar (406-768-7623)

- **Labor Day Powwow**, Aug. 30-Sept. 2 in Ashland (406-784-2883)

- **Chief Plenty Coups Day of Honor**, Aug. 31 in Pryor (406-252-1289)

- **North American Indian Alliance Powwow**, Sept. 6-7 in Butte (406-782-0461)

- **Annual People's Center Celebration and Powwow**, Sept. 21 in Pablo; The People's Center also hosts Native American Awareness Days, Sept. 17-19 (406-675-0160 or www.

peoplescenter.org)

- **Last Chance Community Powwow**, Sept. 27-29 in Helena (406-439-5631)

First Peoples Fund accepting applications through Sept. 1

The First Peoples Fund is accepting applications for its Artist in Business Leadership Program and Cultural Capital programs through Sept. 1.

Artist in Business Leadership

Purpose: To cultivate entrepreneurial artists to a small business level (consistent and reliable income) where business concepts are understood and applied.

The strategy: First Peoples Fund selects artists based on demonstrated artistic talent, evidence of possessing the qualities of an entrepreneur, and indication of embodying the values of the fund.

This self-directed, independent business-arts fellowship is a one-year program supported by individualized professional development training, and working capital funds to strengthen participants' marketing strategies. The fellowship also provides a focus on new work to stimulate creativity and a renewal of

energy in Native art expression.

Eligibility: Artist applicants must be in mid career (five-plus years) in their experience in marketing their art at Indian art markets and galleries, and have wholesale experience. Artists will have chosen art as a means to obtain economic self-sufficiency for their family and to establish themselves as independent, credible artists with viable community-based businesses.

Applicants must be a member of a Northern Great Plains tribe (including Montana), the Eastern Plateau region of Idaho, Oregon and Washington, the Great Lakes Region, or Eastern Seaboard states, or be Native Hawaiian or belong to an Alaska Native tribe. Affiliated Canadian First Nations artist applicants are eligible.

They must demonstrate a strong vision and articulated plan for implementing effective market strategies over the one-year fellowship period and will effectively use this opportunity to explore new works and demonstrate marketing initiative effectively.

Grant amount: \$5,000

Application deadline: Sept. 1, 2013

Cultural Capital Program

Purpose: This program provides tradition bearers of tribal communities the opportunity to further their important cultural work. The program is designed to support previous year Community Spirit Award recipients, allowing them to commit more time in teaching and sharing their ancestral knowledge and practices with others who want to learn.

The strategy: The grant program will aid artists in developing local networks for leveraging other resources and will provide technical assistance and capacity-building support as needed by the master artist/teacher.

First Peoples Fund is interested in Cultural Capital projects that will impact the next generation through reciprocity and community spirit. Examples of this are:

- Passing on knowledge – as mentors and leaders;
- Documentation for the next seven generations to access this knowledge; and
- Artists as cultural resources.

Eligibility: Artist applicants must be a past FPF Community Spirit Award recipient or nominee finalist, or a member of tribes from the Northern Great Plains (including Montana), the Eastern Plateau region, the Great Lakes region, the U.S. Eastern Seaboard states, or be Native Hawaiian or belong to an Alaska Native tribe. Affiliated Canadian First Nations artist applicants are eligible.

Applicants may also be invited by FPF or nominated by a Community Spirit Award recipient.

Grant amount: \$5,000

Application deadline: Sept. 1, 2013

For more information please visit www.firstpeoplesfund.org, call 605-348-0324 or email miranne@firstpeoplesfund.org.



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SBA offers online business primer for Native small businesses

The U.S. Small Business Administration launched an online tool that helps Native American entrepreneurs prepare for business ownership. "The Native American Small Business Primer: Strategies for Success" is a free online business course developed for Native American entrepreneurs that gives an overview of basic business principles and of the SBA's programs and services that help business owners get started.

The course is a business development tool for the entrepreneur's toolbox that emphasizes business planning and market research as essential steps to take before going into business. The course gives useful first steps to take, and includes a section on how to estimate business start-up costs that help assess the financial needs of starting a business.

The course is available from the SBA's Online Small Business Training web page under Online Courses for Starting Your Business at www.sba.gov/sba-learning-center/search/training/starting-business.

IN PRINT

Amskapi Pikuni: The Blackfeet People

By Alice Beck Kehoe, with contributions by the late Clark Wissler and Stewart E. Miller

Published 2012 by SUNY Press, Albany, NY

\$85 hardcover; \$29.95 electronic or softcover

This contemporary history of one of the best-known American Indian nations was written in collaboration with Blackfeet tribal historians and educators.

Amskapi Pikuni portrays a strong native nation fighting for two centuries against domination by Anglo invaders. The Blackfeet endured bungling, corrupt, and drunken agents, racist schoolteachers, and a federal Indian Bureau that failed to disburse millions of dollars owed to the tribe.

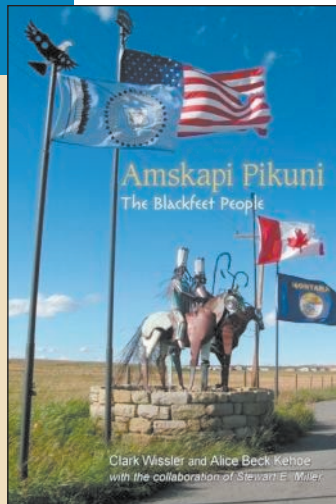
Located on a reservation in Montana that was cut and cut again to give land to white ranchers, the Blackfeet also adapted to the complete loss of their staple food, bison – a collapse of what had been a sustainable economy throughout their history. Despite all of these challenges, the nation held to its values and continues to proudly preserve its culture.

Kehoe is Professor Emerita of Anthropology at Marquette University. She is the author of many books, including *Controversies in Archaeology*, and the second edition of *The Ghost Dance*:

Ethnohistory and Revitalization. Miller (1950–2008) was a Blackfeet tribal member who worked at the Tribal Historic Preservation Office. He collaborated with Kehoe, providing much of the research material and ensuring that the text reflected Blackfeet culture correctly, until he passed away suddenly in 2008.

Wissler (1870–1947) was an American anthropologist and a specialist in North American ethnography, focusing on the Indians of the Plains. His chapter is a previously unpublished 1933 manuscript, based in interviews interpreted by David Duvall. The book also includes a chapter by Amskapi Pikuni Chief Earl Old Person.

"The book is significant for not only bringing Wissler's contribution to light, but also as a testimony to the persistence of Blackfeet heritage through time ... Highly recommended," writes *Choice* magazine.



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